

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 146

By Carr

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Senator Doug Overbey on his induction into the Blount County Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of this General Assembly to honor those among our number as they celebrate milestone accomplishments in their careers; and

WHEREAS, Senator Doug Overbey was inducted into the Blount County Hall of Fame on February 16, 2017, a fitting recognition of his exemplary leadership and relentless service to his constituents in East Tennessee and citizens throughout this State; and

WHEREAS, currently serving his third term representing the 2nd Senate District, which includes Blount and Sevier counties, Senator Overbey has served with the General Assembly for nearly two decades; prior to serving in the Senate, he represented a portion of Blount County in the House of Representatives for eight years from 2000 until 2008; and

WHEREAS, during his seventeen-year tenure, Senator Overbey has served on the Finance, Ways and Means and Health committees of both the House of Representatives and the Senate; he is currently chairman of both the Senate Ethics Committee and the Arts Caucus, and he serves as vice chairman of the Senate Finance, Ways and Means and Judiciary committees; and

WHEREAS, some of the many noteworthy achievements of his career include his leadership in enacting Tennessee's Safe Haven Law and legislation requiring smoke detectors and sprinkler systems in long-term care facilities; he also successfully sponsored and helped pass a major medical malpractice reform bill in 2008, which has resulted in a nearly fifty percent reduction in the filing of medical malpractice lawsuits; and

WHEREAS, Senator Overbey is also an advocate for hospitals, job growth, and small businesses, and he has ardently supported our veterans; in 2016, he sponsored and helped pass a bill to remove the income cap for property tax relief for veterans who have a 100-percent service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, Senator Doug Overbey has also been devoted to causes concerning individuals living with intellectual disabilities, mental illnesses, and addiction; he has made significant strides toward improving services for these individuals, including winning passage of legislation to create the Step Up program, which gives persons with intellectual disabilities access to lottery scholarships for higher education programs; and

WHEREAS, often duly recognized for his leadership and service, Senator Doug Overbey has been honored with the Law & Liberty Award from the Knoxville Bar Association, the Community Leadership Award from Leadership Blount, the Bud Cramer Award from the National Children's Alliance, the "Heavy Hitter" Award for exemplary service for the betterment of independent pharmacy, and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from his *alma mater*, Carson-Newman University, and in 2013, he was named a Council of State Government Toll Fellow; and

WHEREAS, Senator Overbey graduated first in his class from the University of Tennessee College of Law, and he has practiced law for thirty-seven years, cofounding the firm of Robertson Overbey in 1982; and

WHEREAS, a trusted and well-respected expert in his field, Senator Overbey frequently lectures for continuing legal education programs; he has presented the Knoxville Bar Association's annual "Legislative Update" for sixteen years, has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Tennessee College of Law, and has published articles in the *Anglican Digest*; and

WHEREAS, the beloved patriarch of his family, Senator Doug Overbey has been blessed with the love of his wife, Kay, their three daughters, and their granddaughter and grandson; and

WHEREAS, a man of devout faith, Senator Overbey attends St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, Senator Overbey has diligently served the good people of Blount County as a member of this General Assembly for seventeen years now, and it is fitting that he be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Senator Doug Overbey on his induction into the Blount County Hall of Fame, extending our sincere gratitude for his service to this State and wishing him much success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.